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VOL. 1 • ISSUE 2 • JULY 2004

LAZY BEAR 2004

INSIDE

...LAZY BEAR WEEKEND
...GAY RODEO
...FAHRENHEIT 9/11
...STEFFORD WIVES
...SOUL FOOD PROJECT
...MUSIC CIRCUS
...SAM'S RANT
...VETERAN'S BASH
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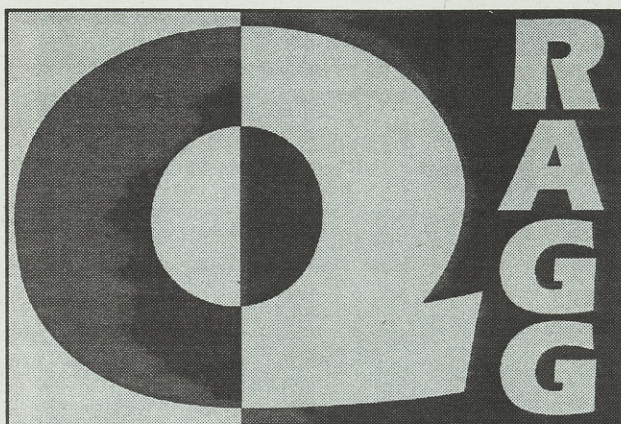
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Q-RAGG INTROS

From the Publisher.....4

Q-LETTERS

Voices of Sacramento.....5

Q-MUNITY

Local News.....6

Soul Food Project.....7

Q-CENTER

Volunteerism.....8

Q-TAINMENT

Brokeback Mountain.....9

Q-FEATURE

Lazy Bear Weekend.....10 & 11

Q-MOVIES

Swanner & Judd.....12

Stepford Wives.....13

Fahrenheit 9/11.....13

Q-SPORTS

Capitol City Hoopsters.....14

Bowling Standings.....14

Women's Basketball Results.....14

Dart League Opening Soon.....14

Q-POLITICS

Dan Roth: Religion & Politics.....16

Sam's Rant.....16

Q-VOICE

The Other F-Word.....17

Q-AFTERDARK

Will return next issue

Q-EVENTS:

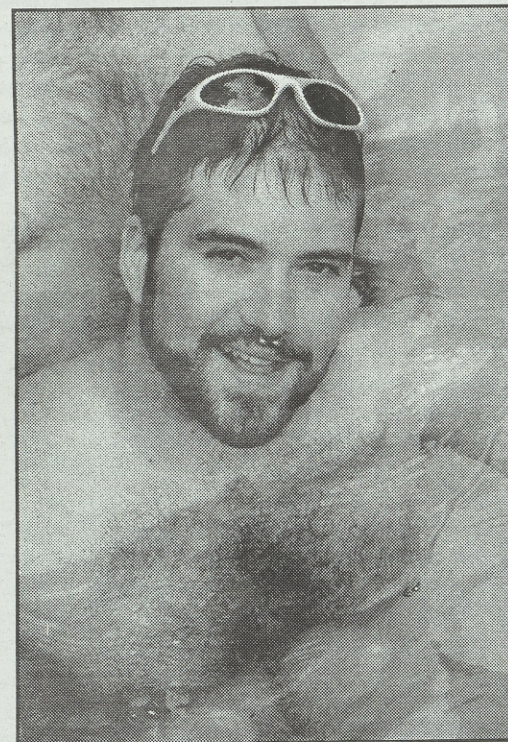
Calendar of Events.....18

Q-BUSINESS

Business Directory.....19

Classifieds Form.....19

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY LYNN LUDWIG



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From the Publisher

Congratulations to Valley Bears and Lazy Bear Weekend

In this second issue of *The Q-Ragg*, I wanted to give some recognition to a group that has done quite a bit for the Sacramento Valley, as well as other areas of Northern California. A few years ago, Harry "Castrobear" Lit called on the Sacramento Valley Bears (SVB) for their time and manpower.

He had a fundraising event in Guerneville, called *Lazy Bear Weekend*. This event consisted of a sleuth of bears gathering at the Russian River to enjoy each other's company and raise money to charity. *Lazy Bear* had outgrown Harry and his partner Allen's abilities to run it by themselves. Harry, having attended several SVB events in the past, knew that it was a very organized group, and at over 175 members strong at that time, had the manpower they needed. Harry asked then president, Ken Day, if SVB would like to help him by supplying the manpower for the events. It happened that Ken was, at the time, looking for something big for the bears to put their name on.

Ken approached the club and they agreed to help. The first year they helped Harry with manpower, the year after they became co-sponsors of the weekend and have continued to be a major part of *Lazy Bear* ever since. This year's event will start on Thursday, July 15th, and continue through Sunday, July 18th. Almost every resort and business in Guerneville, will be involved in one-way or another donating their pools and grounds for a variety of sponsored and private parties to give away raffle prizes and raise money for the charities.

The funds raised during *Lazy Bear* are donated to Northern California charities, with at least 20% coming to SVB to disperse to Sacramento groups, and non-profits that serve the GLBT. AIDS and HIV prevention organizations receive the majority of funds.

Lazy Bear has raised well over \$400,000 in the past four years and in 2003 brought in over \$120,000 with \$25,000 of that going to charities in the Sacramento Valley. Last year it was estimated that between 7000 and 8000 men were in attendance from all over the world. It is for these reasons and many more, that we would like to congratulate the Sacramento Valley Bears, and Harry and Allen, for all they have done.

I am very proud to be a past president, and still active member, of the Sacramento Valley Bears. For more information on the SVB and *Lazy Bear Weekend*, turn to our center spread, or

logon to their website at sacvalleybears.org

Go See *Fahrenheit 9/11*

Even though Tom has a review of this movie on the Q-Movie pages, I felt motivated after seeing it to say a few words about this controversial film. Before seeing this movie, I thought I was doing a pretty good job of keeping up with American politics, especially since President Bush was awarded the presidency by the Supreme Court and not the popular vote—but after seeing this movie, I feel so angry about the continuous lies and deceit that has come from this administration that I now more than ever want to see George W. Bush, like his father, be a one term president.

The Republican party would have us believe that the American media is so liberal that they could never deceive the American public, but after seeing video tape of some of the things that the Bush family has done over the years and gotten away with, I begin to question the media and what they have been doing for the past four years.

With all the State of Florida was going through on election day, such as street repairs so black voters, usually democratic, couldn't get to the polling places, and denying so many of the ballots due to hanging chads, also mostly democratic votes for Gore, why was this not investigated better? The so-called liberal media had called the election for Al Gore in Florida, giving him the presidency, but could Bush lose in the state his brother was Governor of—not if you fix things in his favor. Then, after every news agency had called Florida in favor of Gore, FOX News (where George Bush's cousin works) called in favor for Bush.

Did any of you know it was George Bush's cousin that worked for the conservative FOX News company that called the election for Bush? How did he know all those votes would not count in the end? How did he know that the democratic precincts left to count didn't allow all those voters the chance to vote and that the numbers would be so far down? How could you call Bush the winner when he was down in the actual number of votes that had been counted? Why did the democrats sit back and allow this to happen, and not fight it to the bitter-end? All of these questions with no good answers brought me to only one conclusion, and it's shown in this movie: The Republican Party had this all planned. I used to be skeptical when people threw out these types of accusations about one party or the other, but in this case there are too

many coincidences, and you have to see the movie to understand.

The thing is, that all this is right in front of the faces of those involved, and there was not enough investigating after it all happened. We know now what a deceitful person Bush is, with his "Weapons of Mass Destruction" campaign he has thrown at us to defend his purpose for bombing a country that had nothing to do with attacking us. Was Saddam Hussein an evil person? Yes! Should we have done something to try and remove him from power? Yes! Was he responsible for the attack on America? No!

Our president would like for you to believe that he was, even with all the contrary evidence proving otherwise. Even the independent investigation that Bush tried to squash so the truth wouldn't come out, showed that. It was not a bunch of democrats saying he was wrong; it was people from his own party. With all the proof, he is still, to this day, trying to make us believe differently. Why have we not gone after Bin Laden the way we went after Hussein? Could it be that George Bush is friends with the Bin Laden family, and has been a business partner with his father? Could it be that he is Saudi Arabian, and he doesn't want to upset his friends and business partners that he makes so much money from? Only Bush knows the answers, but now Michael Moore has given us the questions we need to ask.

How many of you know that Saudi Arabia owns between 6-7 percent of the United States? The country from which the terrorists came that actually attacked

us, and caused more deaths than any other terrorist act against our country, owns a huge portion of the U.S. That is a big concern for me, that a country that harbors terrorists, and pays them to attack us, owns such a large portion of our country.

If any of this information surprises you, if it concerns you, then go see this movie. It shows video of Bush meeting with Al Queda while governor of Texas, clips of Bush sitting in an elementary school, reading a book to children for seven minutes—after he'd been told that the U.S., the country he is sworn to serve and protect, was definitely under attack on September 11th. This film shows so much more than I even wanted to know, but that I, and you, need to know before we walk into those voting booths in November.

Can we afford four more years of cutting benefits for our veterans? Can we afford to allow major corporations to make billions of dollars from the rebuilding of Iraq, while our soldier's families starve? Can we face our children, our grandchildren, years from now and explain why we allowed this man to sell our country right out from under us to the very people that hate us and attacked the very foundation of this country?

If you see no other movie this year, go see this film and see the truth. Help make Dubbya's dictatorship a one-term reign—like his daddies.

**YOU CAN EMAIL THE PUBLISHER AT
PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM**



Photo by June Vargas

Larry McFall

Dear Editor...

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading the first issue of *Q-Ragg* that I received at the Freedom Fair. I have to tell you it is a great pleasure to read a paper that concentrates on the gay issues of the greater Sacramento area. I do have one comment to make about your Q-Movie picks of favorite gay movies. How could you omit *High Art* from your Best AfterDark Flick choices. It starred Ally Sheedy and Patricia Clarkson and is well worth your viewing.

Dee DeRango
Q-Munity Member

• • • • •

Dear Editor,

On June 7, 2004, I attended the opening ceremony of the third annual GLBT history exhibit on the second floor of the Capitol Rotunda. The exhibit is wonderful and the people who have put it together deserve our highest praise.

However, I am appalled at the treatment of Assembly Member Mervyn Dymally who was merely acknowledged by Assemblymember Mark Leno for his presence as "a member of the California Assembly." For this the members of the exhibit committee deserve a "shame on you!"

It's my understanding that the whole purpose of the exhibit is to give us a view of gay history especially as it relates to California.

While Mervyn Dymally is now "just" a member of the Assembly, 29 years ago he was the Lt. Governor of California, who also serves as the President of the Senate, and as such he cast what is prob-

ably the most important vote ever to affect the California GLBT community. It was he who cast the tie-breaking vote to send Willie Brown's Consenting Adult Bill (AB 489) to Gov. Jerry Brown to be signed into law.

This bill was the only law in the country

to be passed that specifically made what consenting adults do in the privacy of closed doors legal. All of the rest of the "sodomy" laws were dropped by the various states as they upgraded their criminal codes. As to the story behind Lt. Governor Dymally's vote, it was one of the most dramatic moments in California legislative history. The Lt. Governor, an African-American, was in Colorado attending a dinner in honor of the Lt. Governor of Colorado, the only other African-American holding that office in the country.

AB 489 had passed the Assembly and was on the floor of the Senate. As the roll was called it was evident the vote was tied. If it did not pass at that time it would fail for the legislative year.

Senator James Mills, the pro tempore of the Senate, ordered the doors of the Senate to be locked and arrest warrants were issued for any member who was not

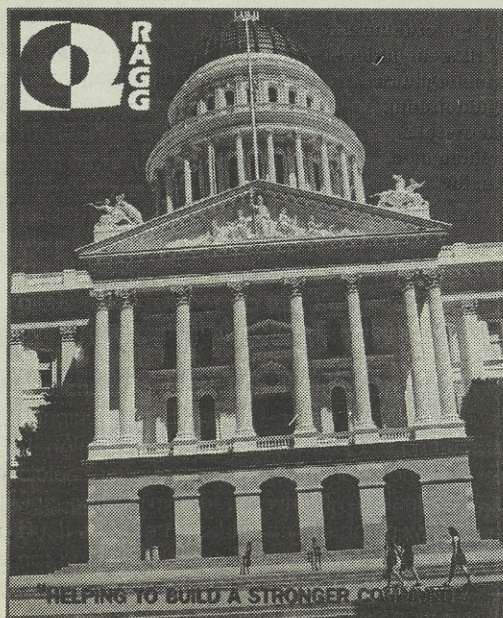
in the chamber, i.e., the Highway Patrol and State Police were to arrest any member of the Senate and return him to the Senate chamber.

Lt. Gov. Dymally was notified in Colorado and hastily left the dinner to board a jet plane chartered to return him immediately to Sacramento where he landed at the Executive Airport and then boarded a helicopter, which landed him on the Capitol grounds. It was a heart-stopping moment as he rushed to the Senate chamber where he knocked on the door to be admitted. He stood, framed by the

doors of the chamber, and asked the Pro Tempore the name of the bill before the Senate, received the answer, to which he replied, "The President of the Senate votes 'Aye!'" The bill was signed into law and took effect on January 1, 1975 and members of the GLBT community were no longer criminals.

Merv Dymally deserves our undying gratitude for his courageous vote for GLBT freedom.

These are the pieces of our history we should never forget. If Merv Dymally is invited to our historical event, the part he played in our history should be recounted so that the members of our community in attendance can thank him for his vision and courage in protecting our civil rights. Merv Dymally stepped up to the plate for us 29 years ago. Imagine! Imagine the cost and the pressure on him to go the other way. The debate in the African-American community is still raging on this issue with the flames of hatred being fanned by Lou Sheldon and company using and deluding the African-American



ministers. It's people like Julian Bond, Coretta Scott King, NAACP, Willie Brown and Merv Dymally that have stood with us. They must not be disregarded or ignored. They deserve our recognition and our thanks.

Jerry Sloan
Project TOCSIN
For more information on Project TOCSIN, logo to: <http://www.rthoughts-free.org/tocsin.htm>

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Dear Editor,

Lambda Letters Project (LLP) would like to share some incredible news with your readers and at the same time ask for some help. We have been offered a \$100,000 cash donor gift attached with three conditions.

-The donor must remain anonymous.

-LLP must enlarge its board to a level that allows us to more effectively run the organization.

-The enlarged board must formalize a business plan outlining the planned use of the gift.

In response to this offer, we invite those who are interested in exploring board and/or committee opportunities to a reception and informational meeting. The one hour meeting is Tuesday, July 27th. The reception is at 6:30pm, and the one half hour meeting starts at 7:00pm. It will be held at Konicom, located at 1819 J Street. For further information and to RSVP please call (916) 719-7164.

Lambda Letters Project, a statewide organization, uniquely offers Californians direct access to the legislative process in order to affect public policy in four areas of concern: LGBTI issues; HIV/AIDS issues; people of color issues, and women's issues. We provide you sample letters and e-mails each month. You can sign and return these letters as is, or use them to create your own message. Lambda Letters Project has a Legislative Advocate who works full-time on behalf of the community. Last year Lambda Letters Project delivered over a quarter-million letters and e-mails on your behalf. For more information, please visit <http://www.lambdaletters.org>.


Sincerely,
Allan Robin
Development Director
Lambda Letters Project

• • • • •

Letters to the Editor: Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Thank you.

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Q-LETTERS



Sacramento's Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

The Purpose Of The Rainbow Chamber Of Commerce
Is To Promote Networking Within The Gay And Lesbian
Business Community And Its Supporters.

The Bolt temporarily closed by ABC Board

Rumors have been circulating for weeks about the closure of Sacramento's favorite Leather and Bear hang-out: The Bolt. Rest assured, the bar's closing is merely temporary. The Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC) cited the bar for infractions after a police raid arrested and cited a number of men

for "lewd acts in public" in its infamous alley in July of 2003. Though the Alley has been partitioned off from costumer access, the ABC has decided to go through with enforcing a temporary suspension to begin directly after the July 4th

weekend. Bolt owner Tom Doherty assures regular patrons the closure is temporary and the bar will reopen no later than the first week of August. The ABC was not able to confirm this date. The closure, while displacing many regular patrons and visitors, does have positive aspects as Tom will be able to make some small renovations before the reopening.

Valley Knights Isleton crabfeed trip a success

The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club's June run to the Isleton Crawdad Festival was enjoyed by approximately 20 club members and guests. The group had a great time cruising Isleton's Main Street, drinking, checking out the bikes and the bikers, munching on all sorts of tasty river creatures, all the while listening to street bands cranking out the blues, Cajun, and rock over the steady growl of motorcycle engines. VKMC invite all local—and not

so local—bikers to join the club on their next motorcycle campout at the Ranch Run, July 9-11. (See the calendar for more details).

Governor's office sets up "Hot Issues" phone line

Governor Arnold Swartzenegger has set up a phone line in the governor's office to deal with all those perky constituents who call for nothing more than to voice their opinions to elected officials. He's set up a touch tone polling line. Callers can call now call in, listen to a menu of current issues being dealt with in California, and choosing to press a button to vote in favor or opposition. The number, (916) 445-2841, includes the topic of Same Sex Marriage. If you have a free moment, call the hotline and let them hear your voice—or beep—for gay marriage.

Lambda Players' 15th season comes to a close

The *Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, the Paul Rudnick play produced by Lambda Players, closed July 3rd bringing to a close a very successful 15th season. "It has been an incredible year," says Lambda Players board president Tom Swanner. Lambda Players are the only LGBT theatre company in Northern California above San Francisco and have changed almost overnight from a small community theatre group into a trendsetter in Sacramento area theatre. Their 2003-2004 season brought lesbian comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer to Sacramento audiences along with several world premiere plays, three sold out theatrical runs, and a number of theatrical award nominations. 16th season tickets are onsale now, which include Kate Clinton at the Crest and *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Sacramento Men's Chorus off to GALA VII in Montreal

The Sacramento Men's Chorus, Sacramento's LGBT musical good-will ambassadors will be departing for GALA VII, the seventh choral festival of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses in Montreal held from from July 17 to July 24. This will be the fourth time that the Sacramento Men's Chorus has attended a GALA festival but it is their first ever international appearance. To mark the occasion, a "Bon Voyage" benefit was held at the Pioneer UCC (Congregational) Church to help raise funds to defray the expenses of the trip. SMC treated their guests to an informal performance of music that they intend to perform in Montreal. Good luck guys! Make us proud!

SGA members march with TGSF for Gwen Araujo

Several members of the Sacramento Gender Association headed off to San Francisco pride, but not for the reasons most everyone else was there. They were on a mission to march in memory of Gwen Araujo, particularly in wake of the recent mistrial in the case. The group, which is a social group for transgender individuals, had been seeing a resurgence of activism within their ranks as the trial continued.

Lambda Letters Project refuses to support ENDA in current form

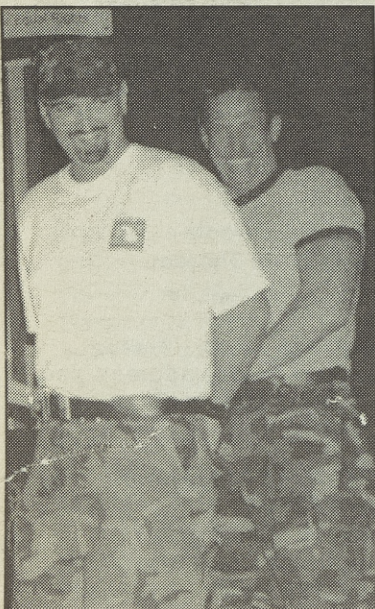
On July 2 Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist for the Lambda Letters Project informed Cheryl Jacques, E.D. of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC that the organization will not support the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) in its present form. The Board of Lambda Letters Project (LLP) voted unanimously not to support the bill until it was amended to provide protection against discrimination for transgender and intersex individuals. "We have often heard it said that adding transgender people to the bill would kill its chances of being approved by Congress," Boyce said in a letter. "However, ENDA, in its current form, has been pending in Congress for at least 10 years without being approved. In fact the original version of ENDA was introduced by Bella Abzug, D-New York during the 1970s. Clearly, the tactic of leaving transgender people out of the bill, to ensure its passage, has failed."

"Francie P." takes over MCC transgender ministry from Rev. Chad

At the Sacramento Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) worship service on June 27, Rev. Freda Smith presided over the transfer of the responsibility for the transgender ministry from Rev. Chad Pifer to Sacramento's Transgender activist "Francie P." Visiting among the congregation to show their support were Johanna Rasmussen, director of the Northern California National Center for Transgender Equality, Trina Martina, president of the Sacramento Gender Association, and members of the Sacramento Transgender youth group. The MCC is the, a worldwide fellowship of Christian churches with a special outreach to the world's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. The MCC website is <http://mccsacramento.org>

Veterans throw "Lift the Ban" bash at Club 21

Club 21 was the setting on June 12, where the first big bash by the Sacramento Valley Veterans (SVV) group, a USO-style show entitled "Lift The Ban." The uniforms were pressed and drag performers dressed to the nines, all coming together for an evening of frolic and fun and fundraising. SVV is Sacramento's local chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights, concentrating on local activities to promote the LGBT Veteran community and work to lift the "Don't ask Don't tell policy" and achieve equality in the United States Armed forces. If this isn't reason enough to get you to their next event, Sam Catalano in his drill sergeant uniform should be a pretty strong motivator.



The Truth of the Golden Rule

By David Warpness

DISPELLING THE MYTHS AND RUMORS ABOUT THE SOUL FOOD PROJECT

Rumored to be a racist organization that is out to "starve white boys by exhorting only black/black relationships". Rumored to be duplicating HIV prevention services that is taking scarce funding from more worthy, better established organizations. Rumored to be a gay social service organization which makes it harder to secure funding for the full array of services envisioned doesn't seem to faze Clarmundo Sullivan, President, CEO and Founder of Golden Rules Services, an organization whose tag line is "treat others the way you want to be treated....BUT even better!!" Sullivan has heard it all before but was still willing, even excited at the chance to sit down and discuss the things said about his agency and the real work that they are doing.

Currently Golden Rules Services is the home of the Men's Soul Food Project, a four part HIV education/prevention curriculum presented in two meetings. The project is funded for African American gay, bisexual and "down low" brothers. The Men's Soul Food Project is a direct response to the Black Men's Health Survey that Golden Rules conducted as Sacramento's first health needs assessment by and for black men who have sex with other men. Since its inception in 2001 the soul food project has served over 200 African American men from the Sacramento area.

People who think that Golden Rule Services is racist organization have never educated themselves on the vast array of services they have offered to various communities.

People who see the Men's Soul Food Project as racist don't understand many factors, the first of which is the reality that there is a crisis within America regarding the rate of HIV infection and AIDS among African Americans. Because of this fact the project is simply not funded to serve

people outside of the targeted audience. In the world of non-profits specific funding is restricted; to work outside of the grant parameters is putting the entire project's funding at risk. Secondly, according to Sullivan many of the participants are in interracial relationships and that is not an issue. No one cares if the men attending have same race or interracial partners as long as only the African American partner attends.

The program is designed as a place for people who have a shared cultural background. For many participants it is the first time to be able to have others understand their experiences and feelings without judgment or having to explain to them.

"It's like meeting someone from your hometown and you both just know places, people and events," says Sullivan. "It's that sense belonging in the world, for some for the first time."

Sullivan went on to explain that explained that sense of not belonging can lead to a sense of denial and is a possible reason for such a disproportionate rate of HIV infections among African American men—one in 50 as opposed to one in one in 250 for white men. "Being black already makes you a minority within the larger society, being black and gay makes you a double minority, not accepted by your family and faith community where you at one time found acceptance as a minority and adding a positive HIV status creates a triple minority status in which you risk not being accepted by other black gay men."

A 2002 report from the Center for Disease Control supports Sullivan's explanation listing denial as a risk factor just after poverty. The report cited that "a significant number of African American men who have sex with male partners continue to identify themselves as heterosexual. As a result, they may not relate to prevention



CLARMUNDO SULLIVAN, BSW, M.ED PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER GOLDEN RULE SERVICES AND JOHN HYLTON, GOLDEN RULE SERVICES OUTREACH WORKER

messages crafted for openly gay men."

This is the point behind Golden Rule Services and all that they offer.

Golden Rule Services was created to fill in the gaps that often occur in social service delivery. Golden Rule Services is not a gay agency nor is it an African American agency. It's mission statement clearly lays out that the agency was created to "...reduce health, education, socioeconomic and juvenile justice disparities in ethnic, racial and sexual communities in Sacramento County."

But now the question remains, is the Men's Soul Food Project a success? Just the sheer number of men who have participated in the program is a testament to people like outreach worker John Hylton. His perseverance and determination to get the word out saves lives. Examples of behavioral changes for men who have attended the project are deciding to get tested, committing to use condoms more often or always, and decreasing their number of sexual partners.

"I want to be clear that we are not here to replicate or duplicate services already being provided. We are here to fill in the gaps, serve the underserved," says Sullivan.

There are challenges ahead for Sullivan and his agency as with all small non-profit agencies but they are creating a positive track record that is getting stronger, which translates into more funding. "The next community is the transgender community because they are the most at risk and underserved, whoever they are," said Sullivan.

For more information on Golden Rule Services or how to help with any of their programs logon to www.goldenrules.info or call (916) 456-1111.

FAST FACTS

ACCORDING TO THE CDC:

- ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 12.3% OF THE POPULATION, YET THEY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR 39% OF THE ESTIMATED AIDS CASES DIAGNOSED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EPIDEMIC.

- IN 2002 THE AIDS DIAGNOSIS RATE AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS WAS ALMOST 11 TIMES THE RATE AMONG WHITES.

- IN 2002 AFRICAN AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR 42% OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE US LIVING WITH AIDS

- IN 2002 AFRICAN AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR OVER HALF OF THE NEW HIV DIAGNOSES REPORTED IN THE US

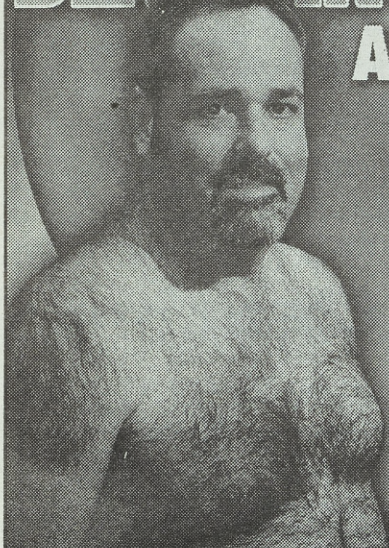
- A STUDY OF PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH HIV FOUND THAT 56% OF LATE TESTERS, I.E. THOSE THAT WERE DIAGNOSED WITH AIDS WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THEIR HIV DIAGNOSIS, WERE AFRICAN AMERICAN. LATE TESTING REPRESENTS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV

- THE AIDS RATE FOR AA MEN IN 2001 WAS 8 TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF WHITE MEN.

Come Join Doug and the Sacramento Valley Bears at

BEARS IN THE SAC 2004

AUGUST 27, 28, & 29



- California State Fair
- Meet & Greet
- Welcome Pool Party
- Mr. Sacramento Valley Bear Contest
- American River Rafting Trip
- Farewell Pool Party

For More Info:
<http://www.sacvalleybears.org>

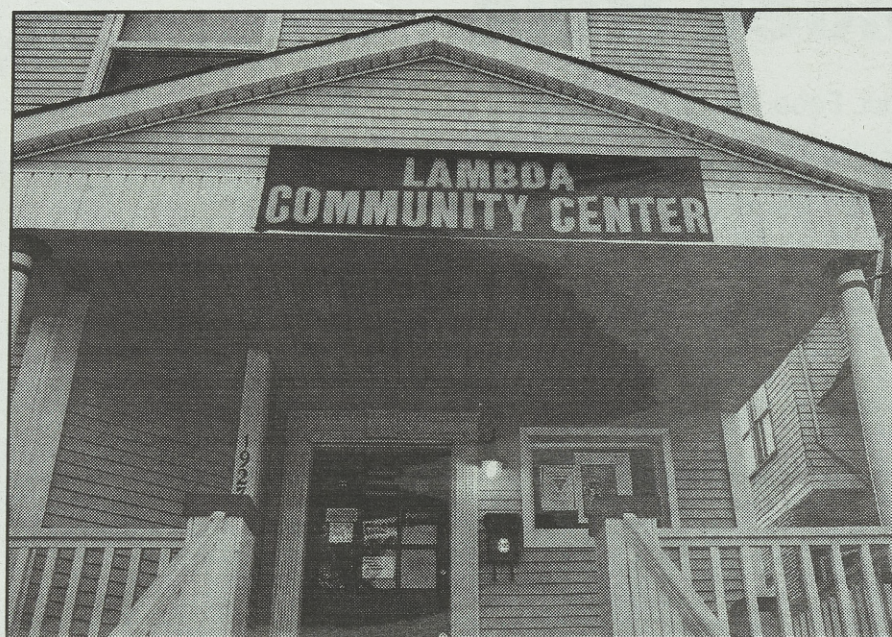


Photo by June Vargas CJV

From the Center Out

By M.A. Ross

Q-Ragger Matt Ross chat with
Volunteer Coordinator
Jason Kirkland

For over 20 years now the Lambda Community Center, located at 1927 L Street, has been doing its best to serve the needs of Sacramento's ever expanding Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender community. But few people take the time to stop and consider the long hours of hard work, effort, and bravery that goes into making this invaluable resource available to the public at large. Most everyone has heard the story about the origins of the Lambda Community Fund. Sometimes conflicting versions crop up, but the names never change. And thanks to Rev. Jerry Sloan, Timothy Warford, Terry Sidie, Marghe Covino, Randy Hartman, and many others through the years, The Lambda Center has survived to become the phoenix from the flames it is today.

That being said, there is no agency that can run itself. It takes many hours, lots of talent and the passion and commitment of volunteers to keep an agency open and fiscally afloat year after year. Our Center is no different, and although they have a small permanent staff, it is mostly manned by volunteers, who answer phones, file papers and donate their other skills and free time to those in our community who are in need.

I spoke with Jason R. Kirkland who is the full-time volunteer coordinator at the Center and a difficult man get hold of on the phone. Jason is one of those always-on-the-go, A-type personality people perfectly suited for this type of high paced job. When I was able to catch up to him, he told me that although he has officially been with the Center since October of 2003, he has been involved for quite a while, and although he spends an extraordinary amount of his time at the Center, he loves every minute of it.

"I really enjoy helping people in need." He told me.

As Jason and I spoke, he told me that there are only about 30 volunteers that cover all the hours the center is open, Monday-Friday, Noon-9pm, Saturday 9am - 9pm and Sunday 10am-6pm. While 30 may seem like a solid number, the Center is always looking for more volunteers to expand their hours and keep up with the communities needs.

"I would love to see the center have earlier opening hours and later closing hours, or better yet open 24 hours! One of the Center's biggest obstacles is finding volunteers for weekday hours," says Jason. "You would not believe the number of distress calls we get. But it's not just phone volunteers that we look for; we're also looking for grant writers as well as people with computer skills to help with the Lambda Link mailings we send out."

Jason also informed me that "We're thinking about moving the Center to a bigger space, so that we can accommodate more programs. Like the program I helped start called *First Stages* that is a support group for people aged 18 to 29 who have recently been diagnosed with AIDS or like the foster care center that is in its planning stages right now."

As we talked, I learned more about the center's volunteer program including their desire to recognize folks who do outstanding work in the community. One event the Center uses to recognize these people is the Lambda Volunteer Awards which was begun 12 years ago. I was really pleased to hear that The Lambda Center took the time to show their appreciation for all the volunteers' hard work and dedication.

"We truly appreciate our volunteers here at the Center," Jason says, "We give out monthly awards and quarterly awards. We just had our eleventh annual awards ceremony on May 3rd in the Capital Ballroom at the Double Tree Inn, and do you know we actually made a profit this year!"

As we said our goodbyes I started thinking about how I spend my free time and how it would probably be better spent helping out my fellow community members instead of watching another irrelevant rerun of some 80's sitcom. I think we could all take a lesson from Jason and the other volunteers who are bringing our Center back into line with the vision it was intended to be—one of the strongest community resources we have.

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Brokeback Mountain in Production

Q-TAINMENT

By David Warpness

The December announcement from Hollywood that the award winning short story *Brokeback Mountain* is to be made into a film directed by Ang Lee seemed like an early Christmas present. The thought of hiring Ang Lee to take the helm in creating a film version of the celebrated cowboy love story seemed promising.

Then the terror set in as one realized that film versions of beloved novels and short stories more often than not translate poorly to the screen. After all a film is not just good directing and great source material but also producing, screenplay writing and casting.

For those not familiar with the story written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Annie Proulx, it's the tragic love story of Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, two cowboys who meet in 1960's rural Wyoming. The story, though only thirty pages long, spans some twenty years in the lives of the two men who find themselves in what Jack calls a situation, they are undeniably in love with each other. *Brokeback Mountain* won the 1998 O. Henry Short Story Award and upon being published in *The New Yorker* won a National Magazine

Award. Currently the easiest way to access the story is in Ms. Proulx's collection of short stories entitled, *Close Range Wyoming Stories* which was published in 1999.

Now with talk of a film version going as far as announcing not only the signing of Ang Lee but some promising casting of the leads one begins to hope that the film will it meet the high expectations set by Proulx's written word.

There is no doubt that Ang Lee has proven himself time and again as a master film maker able to cross

Dragon, Hidden Tiger including getting mainstream America into a subtitled film. Yes, Ang Lee has been able to envelop our senses, stimulate our intellect, excite our imaginations and invoke our emotions but still the big question for fans of *Brokeback Mountain* remains can anyone make the short story into a satisfying film?

The true answer to that question will be the screenplay. Remember Hollywood struck out on their first attempt to bring a Proulx story to the screen and that was her Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Shipping News*. Despite acting heavyweights Kevin Spacey, Juliann Moore and Cate Blanchett *The Shipping News* opened to mediocre reviews and was virtually ignored by the movie going public.

There were rumors that Proulx herself along with Larry McMurty (Lonesome Dove) were adapting the screenplay but official word now is that the writing credits are going to McMurty and Diana Ossana, who has worked with McMurty before on adapting some of his work for television. For those concerned that turning a thirty-page story into a feature length film probably need not worry. The story is as vast as the Wyoming landscape it takes on and it packs enough emotion and memorable scenes to easily translate into a feature length film. In fact the story is so well written it seems as though it could be filmed right off the page as it stands in it's current form and fill two hours with ease. A more valid concern would be who is being cast in the pivotal roles of Ennis and Jack?

For months fans of the story tried to guess which two leading hunks would play

the cowboys while bearing in mind that Ennis and Jack are not good looking men. Buckteeth, a poorly healed broken nose, an eyelid drooping due to a benign growth are the physical attributes of our lovers. It is not their physical beauty that draws the reader in but rather the beauty of their love for each other.

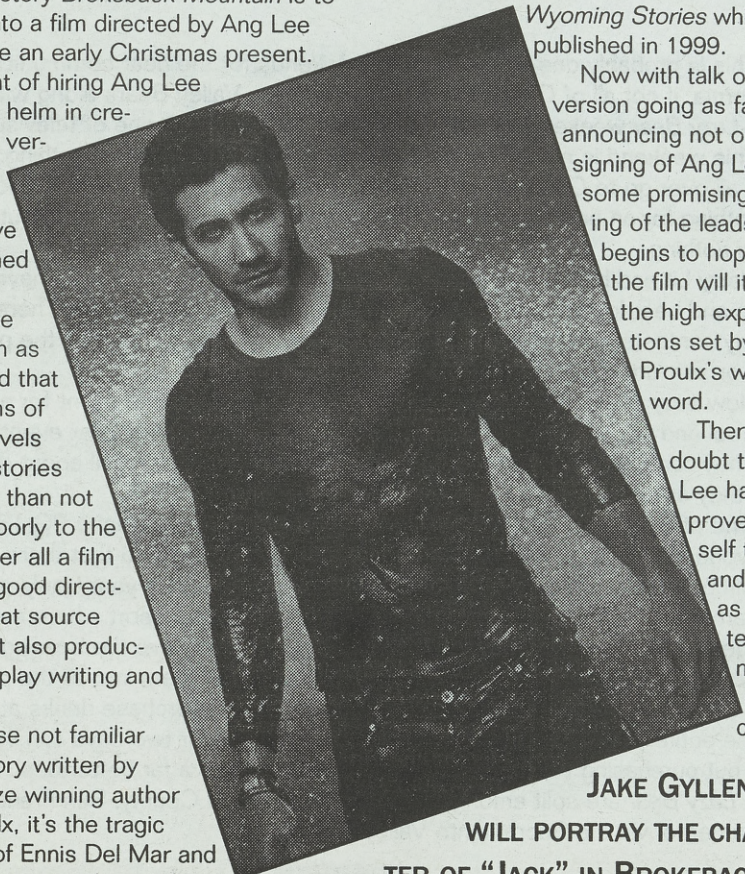
As for casting one school of thought was that Hollywood would do better to cast unknowns who

look like real people than go with the most recent pretty boy. Others felt that film is a business and if there is any hope of drawing an audience in to see two young

cowboys discover love on a cold Wyoming mountain there would have to be some serious lead star power to get that first weekend box office.

The decision has been made and given the current crop of actors in Hollywood casting Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, as Ennis and Jack respectively, seems a livable and balanced choice. Neither has so much star power as to detract from the story and Mr. Ledger scruffs up nicely. Others in the cast include Michelle Williams as Alma, Randy Quaid as Joe Aguirre and Anne Hathaway as Jack's wife.

No release date has been set but the movie should open sometime in 2005 on a platform release schedule. Until the premiere fans will just have to read the story every few months and wait with uncertain anticipation to hear more from Hollywood. Not unlike Ennis waiting those long years to hear from Jack after their first goodbye.



JAKE GYLLENHAAL, WILL PORTRAY THE CHARACTER OF "JACK" IN BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN'S THEATRICAL RELEASE.

genres, languages and story telling styles. He has done gay romantic comedy with *The Wedding Banquet*, art house action with *The Incredible Hulk*, intense family drama with *The Ice Storm* and he seemed to be able to do everything with *Crouching*



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Lazy Bear Week



This is probably one of the biggest weekends for the bear community in Northern California, if not all of California. The Sacramento Valley Bears along with Castrobear presents *Lazy Bear* weekend, and it is the exact same idea as one of television's biggest hits.

This weekend is much like the TV show *Seinfeld*. It is about nothing. Bears and cubs from all over go to Guerneville, kick off your shoes, maybe a piece of clothing or two, and do nothing for an entire weekend. It has grown into a four-day event, but still is just about doing nothing.

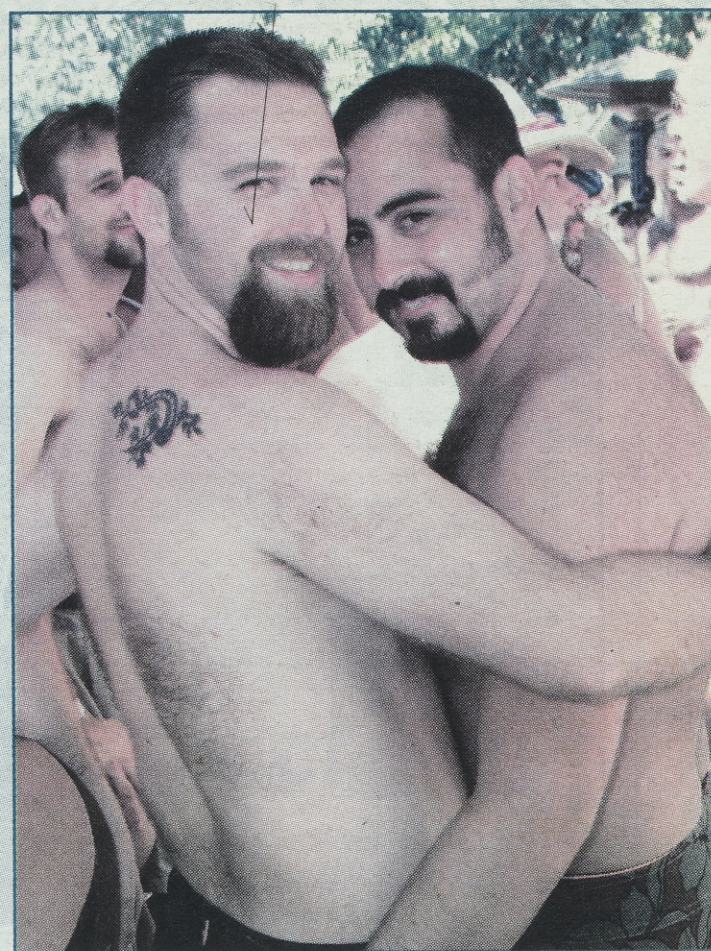
Harry Lit and his partner Allen, came up with the idea in 1995 to have a gathering of bears and bear lovers in the town of Guerneville, right on the river. There were not going to be any contests or bear beauty pageants; this was about sitting by the pool, sipping on a beer or soft drink and relaxing.

Now *Lazy Bear* has blossomed into more than just a little event for a few guys to sit by the pool and sip on a beer; it has become one of the premier bear events in the country, so big, they can't all gather around just one pool any longer. It's still about doing nothing, but now they are doing it in a very large group.

One of the things that Harry strives for is to keep *Lazy Bear* a PG-13 experience where everyone can come to have a good time, but also understand that there are places where certain behaviors are inappropriate, (i.e. out in public). Each year Harry, with the help of the Sacramento Valley Bears, set up headquarters at Fife's Resort where everyone checks in and gets their "bear tags" which look like dog tags and have the bear colors on it for each of the guys to wear around their neck. These tags get them into all the pool parties and bars where the events are going on, and allow you to purchase drinks at a reduced price for the entire weekend. Those coming up for just one or two days can still get into the parties, but purchasing the bear tags even the day-tripper a far better deal. All monies raised from *Lazy Bear* are split amongst charities in Sonoma County, San Francisco, and Sacramento, via the Sacramento Valley Bears.



By Lynn Ludwig



Weekend

By Larry McFall

I had a chance to ask Harry a few questions about Lazy Bear Weekend, and I'd like to share some of that with you.

When did you start Lazy Bear Weekend?

Harry: Nine years ago.

How many men would you estimate were at the first event?

Harry: Somewhere between 160-250 men.

How much money did you raise the first year?

Harry: About \$2,000. Last year it was \$115,000.

Where did the money get donated last year?

Harry: Many charities in previous years such as The Ken Day Fund of Sacramento, Positive Resource Center of SF., Under One Roof in the Castro, AEF of Sonoma County, Safesexcity.com, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Guerneville Chapter, AEF (Aids Emergency Fund) SF, BCEF (Breast Cancer Emergency Fund) SF, The Walden House, The GLTB Center, CUAV (Community United Against Violence), Food for Thought of Sonoma County, Variety Club of Northern California, Breaking Barriers of Sacramento, Gay and Lesbian Advertising Fund of Guerneville and Lambert House. This year some of the same charities, plus Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, BOSF charities, Tweakers.org, Bay Positive and Magnet.

Has the money always gone to AIDS related charities?

Harry: Mostly, but some of the funds go to outreach programs that help our community. Also, if a non-Aids/Gay related charity is a recipient, it's going to them for research and cures, which may help with AIDS research.

What year did the Sacramento Valley Bears get involved?

Harry: Well lets see, it always seems as though they were involved in one-way or another, but this is their fourth year co-hosting the fundraiser. Without the dedication of over 90 SVB members, there's just no way we would be able to bring in the bucks we do. A dedicated committee that works year round and on site volunteers makes it possible to bring in more. Last year our total was \$115,000. That just doesn't happen by itself. The Sacramento Valley Bears are a great group of guys that I'm proud to call my friends.

How many men do you estimate were there last year?

Harry: The Guerneville Chamber of Commerce estimated that during the five days between 5,000 and 6,000 people attended.

What resorts are involved with Lazy Bear?

Harry: The main resorts are: The Russian River Resort (Triple R), FIFES Resort, The Woods (formerly Xen), The Retreat resort and Spa, The Hilands and Fern Grove Cottages. The reality is that in some way, most of the resorts participate. The ones listed are where some of the events are put on.

IF YOU WANT TO FIND A PLACE TO STAY UP AT THE RIVER, CHECK IN WITH VERA AND HER SON MICHAEL AT THE RUSSIAN RIVER CONCIERGE AT 1-800-767-1759. IT'S DEFINITELY TOO LATE FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT, BUT MAYBE THERE WILL BE SOME CANCELLATIONS. THEY CAN ALSO HELP YOU FIND A PLACE ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR UP IN GUERNEVILLE.

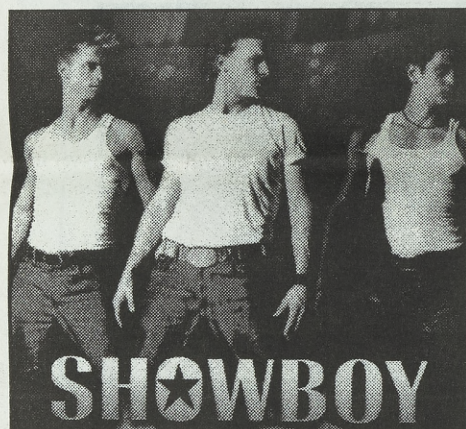
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LAZY BEAR WEEKEND, LOGON TO THEIR WEBSITE WWW.LAZYBEARWEEKEND.COM



Swanner
&
Judd

Showboy is a 90-minute nightmare

Many GLBT movies do not get a theatrical debut and are released directly to video. For many of these movies, even video releases are too good. But if you're a fan of the independent filmmaker, you've most likely purchased a number of DVDs only to be burned time and time again by films that had good descriptions or good box art. Each month Swanner & Judd will take a look at the handful of these films to give you a heads up on if they are truly worth the watch.



Swanner: *Showboy* is a 90-minute mockumentary about a man seeing what it takes to become a showboy on the Las Vegas strip.

Judd: Wait! It was only 90 minutes long? I fast-forwarded through huge chunks of this flick and I swear I was sitting on my couch for a good three or four lifetimes.

Judd: I thought I was going to get a good, funny, biting comedic mockumentary a la *Drop Dead Gorgeous* or *On Edge*. Boy, I couldn't have been more wrong—I was bored within the first ten minutes.

Swanner: You had more patience than I did.

Judd: To go a little deeper into the plot of the film—what little plot there was—Christian Taylor is a writer for *Six Feet Under* (he was in real life as well) and he's being filmed by a British documentary crew. The documentary crew "accidentally" records Christian being fired, but they don't tell him they know and he doesn't fess up. Instead of going back to LA, he stays in Vegas and decides he wants to become a showboy, but doesn't admit that to the documentary crew either. He tells

them he's doing research for a film project and the documentary crew follows him around trying to catch him in his lie.

Swanner: Who in the world would put up money for this dog? To call it "boring" would be to insinuate that it has some substance. It has nothing; bad acting, bad script, bad idea.

Judd: My question is not who put up the money, but why in the world did Whoopi Goldberg, Sigfreid & Roy (pre-tiger attack), Alan Ball (writer/producer *American Beauty* and *Six Feet Under*) and other various members of *Six Feet Under* agree to make cameos?

Swanner: It seem obvious that the people who did cameos had to have thought that the film was never going to be shown in America, the way big actors do Japanese commercials knowing they will never play in the states.

Judd: The other question burning in my mind is, what is Christian Taylor responsible for writing in *Six Feet Under*? If he's as talentless as this movie proved him to be, it won't be long before he really is fired from the show.

Swanner: I figured that he was fired in real life and this film is proof why the firing took place.

Judd: I just checked IMDB.com and it looks like Christian only wrote three episodes for the 2001 season. Maybe after seeing the film Alan Ball really did fire him!

Swanner: In the past three years *Showboy* is all he has to offer? Actually the one good thing I can say about the film is that I rearranged all my kitchen cabinets during it. Had it ran longer, I would have mopped the kitchen floor as well.

Judd: OK, let's put this *Showboy* out of its misery.

Swanner: I giving it 5 BIG bitch slaps and I'm revoking his green card ... if it hasn't already happened. We have enough talentless hacks in this country we don't need Britain's rejects, too!

Judd: I agree. I also give this train wreck five bitch slaps—and two more when no one is looking.

JUDD: 5 BITCH SLAPS
SWANNER: 5 BITCH SLAPS



CHARLIZE THERON & CHRISTINA RICCI STAR IN MONSTER

Judd: Last night I plugged in my 80's top-loader VCR. (you gotta love early video technology; it was built Tonka tough) and popped in the new DVD release of *Monster*, the biographical movie of lesbian serial killer Aileen Wuornos, starring Charlize Theron and Christina Ricci.

Swanner: Weren't you amazed with Charlize Theron's transformation? If you didn't know she was the star, you'd never have known it was her. She completely pulled off the white-trash tuff chick thing.

Judd: She was amazing! Her skill as an actress is unquestioningly top notch. I was totally impressed. Her body movement, facial expressions, stance; everything about her screamed Rio Linda. I'm really glad I watched this movie, but there was one thing out of place that stuck out like a sore thumb. Can you guess what I'm talking about?

Swanner: None of her johns ever got naked?

Judd: No, Mr. One-Track-Mind—though Aileen did give a handjob to the stutterer—I'm sure that got a rise out of you. What I'm talking about is Christina Ricci. I'm a fan of hers, but I didn't think she was right for the roll. She looked too young, she acted too femme to be teamed with Theron's character, and frankly, her character wasn't anything more than Christina Ricci in an ugly wig and an arm cast. She disappointed me.

Swanner: Oh that! Ricci has a talent

to take even a one-scene role and make it into the starring role, but she was very forgettable in this film. The one thing that really stuck out for me was that none of the characters were worth caring about; not one person was relatable. Had it not been for Theron's performance, I wouldn't even suggest the film. She was amazing, the film is not.

Judd: I didn't find myself caring about the characters either, but I don't think we were suppose to. After all, Aileen was a murdering prostitute and Selby was a whiny cry-baby who told Aileen to go out and turn tricks when they were low on funds. I also had a problem with there being no consistency in time. Aileen and Selby met in 1986, and Aileen was convicted in 1990 and put to death in 2002, yet there was nothing that told us this movie took place over a period of four years. It was confusing to see Selby and Aileen wearing 80's clothing and rollerskating, then after Aileen killed a couple people she was picked in a 1992 Crown Victoria. Also the stuttering john was driving a mid-90's Mercury Cougar XR-7—Aileen was already in jail when that car was made. Am I being a stickler for details? Yes. Is it shoddy filmmaking? Yes! When there is nothing but wardrobe and automobiles to set a time frame, you might want to hire a dramaturge who knows what they're doing.

Swanner: I like detail as much as the next guy, but dumping on the cars and clothes? What a bitch. The film was made on a budget of \$8 million, which isn't much when you consider most films that make it into theatrical release have budgets over \$50 million. My God, you can't even get a good caterer for less than \$8 million. But I was pissed to find out that her killing streak was over four years; the film made it feel like a couple months.

Judd: I can forgive Patty Jenkins

0 = GREAT!
1 = GOOD!
2 = OKAY.
3 = WHATEVER.
4 = CRAP!
5 = WORST MOVIE EVER!

Brian Judd visits the creepy town of Stepford

Stepford Wives could have been a huge flop, and depending on whom you ask, it may be. I liked it. I liked very much, which means in addition to *Monster*, my task of reviewing this month is not an easy one. It's easier to criticize that it is to praise, and *Stepford Wives* is worth some praise.

Stepford Wives is based on the Ira Levin's novella of the same name. In 1975, the original *Stepford Wives* was released and hailed as a dark thriller that provided a feminist voice and social commentary for the time period. This remake is none of the above. Frank Oz and Paul Rudnik team up to produce a dark comedy that goes heavy on the comedy, light on the 'dark', and leaves the social commentary for Michael Moore. I didn't come away with a message. I didn't feel the need to burn my bra. I left the theatre with a smile on my face and thought of building my own Stepford Boyfriend.

In this telling of the tale, Joanna Eberhard (Nicole Kidman) is the president of a television network where Gloria Steinem would be more than proud to work. During the first twenty minutes of the movie Joanna gets shot at, fired, and suffers from a nervous breakdown. This prompts her husband (Matthew Broderick) to take her away from the big city to a gated community managed by Mike and Claire Wellington (Christopher Walken and Glenn Close) and inhabited by other WASPs trying to escape. Once in Stepford, Joanna befriends Bobbie Markowitz (Bette Midler) and Roger Banister (Roger Bart) and the three of them realize that there is something definitely wrong with the women of Stepford.

What I think most of the critics that gave this movie a harsh review missed was the gay sensibility that Paul Rudnik instilled into the script. He tries to give us the clue by adding the gay couple Roger



and Jerry and turning one of them into a Stepford Homo. As I mentioned, this movie is not a feminist commentary, instead it's almost a spoof of that. Rather than feeling horrified that the men of Stepford are turning their women into soulless domestic slaves, we're supposed to laugh at these women that have been turned into Martha Stewart without the dyke-y edge.

The movie is not flawless by any means, though. Namely, there are several huge plot holes revolving around whether these women are robots or under some sort of mind control. Also, when Joanna meets Bobbie we assume that Bobbie has lived there for awhile but is not like the other women. Why not?

I rate *Stepford Wives* 1 1/2 Bitch Slaps. I liked the film, but I don't think it should walk away with only one slap — it was good, but it wasn't that good. Besides, Christopher Walken always freaks the hell out of me, and he deserves 1/2 a Bitch Slap all his own.

JUDD: 1 1/2 BITCH SLAPS

Monster Continued: Theron is a hit ...

(writer/director) for her choices with the automobiles and even forgive the hideous clothing, but the time reference thing should have been addressed, even if they used a cheesy "four years later" subtitle, at least it would have given a sense of time. Selby makes Aileen turn tricks for money, and uses an arm cast as a lame excuse not to work? (Which apparently she had the cast on her arm for four years. That's one slow healing bone)

Swanner: I would have liked a cheesy four years later sign, too. I usually don't do a lot of research before I see a film, so when I find out I've been misled I get kind of peeved. The more I talk about this movie the less I like it, let's close this thing up before I start bitching about cars and cloths.

Judd: Well now that I've spoiled the movie for you, let's not forget or discount Charlize Theron's brilliant performance. If

you can look past the cars, clothes and the skewed timeline, any person that sees this movie is in for an unforgettable performance. When it comes down to it, story and acting are what an independent films are about. Whatever this film lacked in story (and everything else) Charlize gave us her all and made it worth the watch.

Swanner: I agree. It should be watched for Theron, but I suggest folks rent it before deciding to purchase. I give it two and a half bitch slaps. The half is for Christina Ricci's hair being so awful.

Judd: I'm giving *Monster* a full three bitchslaps to be divided equally between Patty Jenkins, Christina Ricci (Sorry, baby, but you deserve it.) and Christina Ricci's hair stylist. Charlize goes unscathed for her brilliant and outstanding performance.

JUDD: 3 BITCH SLAPS
SWANNER: 2 1/2 BITCH SLAPS

Tom Swanner gets hot over *Fahrenheit 9/11*

After seeing *Fahrenheit 9/11* I'm really not sure how to review it. I know I was bias going in to this film as I keep current on politics in this country and being a liberal I was going in wanting to love this film. I know it was a documentary and I should be commenting on the structure of the storytelling and the overall film-making. Still, mostly I just want to jump up and down with excitement because I know this has to be a huge blow to the Republicans and all their conservative friends. I can only imagine how uncomfortable they must be feeling now that the

Then the questions start. Why did Bush sit in that Florida classroom pretending nothing was wrong while he knew that the largest city in this country was being attacked? If the country was under attack, if they came after him, wasn't there any thought for the children in the school he was at? If the Terrorist knew of his whereabouts weren't

those children in danger. He knew that over 5,000 Americans were being murdered and he chose to take advantage of a photo opt. OK, just take a deep breath.

It's moments like this that make up this amazing film. I could go on but instead of a review this would this would become one of Sam Catalano's rants.

The film has already

won the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or—the equivalent to our Best Picture Oscar. It has also, in its first weekend of release, become the highest grossing documentary of all time. (*Jackass* was NOT a documentary!) How well the film will continue to do in theatres, and then on DVD, is yet to be seen. How much of a difference it makes to the way Americans will feel about their President, his staff, and their "friends" is what I'm really looking forward to watching.

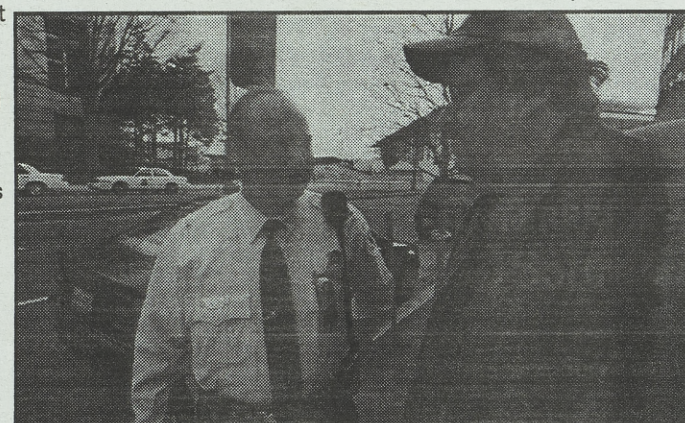


theatres are filled with audiences learning about what the current administration is doing to this country.

Michael Moore really is an incredible filmmaker. He manipulates his audience as any good documentary filmmaker should by showing original footage of events and including interviews with people who tell his story for him and collaborate his opinions. This is how it's done. He's not going to make a movie that makes the "bad guys" look good. That's my disclaimer.

Now that that is out of the way, I can tell you how watching this film made me feel. As I mentioned I am pretty aware of the current political situation in this country so a lot of what was on the screen didn't take me by surprise. It was the filmmaking that really blew me away. I laughed, I cried and I got angry—all in the first ten minutes of *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

The film opens up on Al Gore on what looks to be him winning the election, and the feeling that the last four years in this country were just a bad dream. Moore's voice over tells us that the last four years were real and it just feels like a bad dream. *Fahrenheit 9/11* is this countries wake up call. Within the first five minutes we relive the events of 9/11 but filmmaker Moore only lets us hear the happenings on the streets of New York and, thankfully, doesn't make us watch the towers fall once again.



What is great filmmaking? Maybe it's the ability to educate and to change the way people feel. I know I still think twice before I go swimming in the ocean after seeing *JAWS* for the first time some 20 years ago, and I wonder if this film will make people think twice before they vote for a President in November?

Let's hope so.

I award no bitch slaps to *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Just one big hand on your back to push you towards the local Cineplex to see this terrific film.

SWANNER: 0 BITCH SLAPS

CAPITAL CITY HOOPSTERS WOMEN'S LEAGUE WEEK ONE RESULTS

WHISLER (36) vs. CLUB 21 (20)
MAGALE CHIRO (40) vs. OUTWORD (35)
THE DEPOT (39) vs. JAMMIN' Jo's (35)

WEEK 1 LEADERS:

POINTS:

Kim Erlenwein, Jammin Jo's - 15; Paula Creamer, Magale Chiro - 14
Rachel Raymond, The Depot - 13; Jeanie Huizer, Whisler - 12
Dusty Hoetger, Jammin Jo's - 12; Trey Kenyon, Outword - 12

REBOUNDS

Trey Kenyon, Outword - 10; Paula Creamer, Magale Chiro - 10
Maria Richardson, Club 21 - 10; Rachel Raymond, The Depot - 8
Trinity Durante, The Depot - 8; Kisha Harris, Magale Chiro - 8
Tara Christian, Outword - 8

STEALS

Jeanie, Whisler - 7; Anna Leano, The Depot 5; Kim Richard, Outword - 3
Irma Alvarez - Women's Organizer, Capital City Hoopsters Sacramento

RIVER CITY BOWLERS SUMMER LEAGUE STANDINGS at AMF LAND PARK BOWL as of 6/21/2004

Team	Won	Lost	Team	Won	Lost
Odds N Ends	10	2	Contenders	6	6
Team #2	9.5	2.5	Hold Me Up	5.5	6.5
Chixs & Dixs	8.5	3.5	Blind Team	5	7
Bangers United	8	4	Bustin' Balls	3	9
Any Markle Do	8	4	Gutter Sluts	3	9
Too Many Men	8	4	Pussy Liquors	3	9
Wild Women	7	5	Styleyes	2.5	9.5
Odd Person Out	7	5	River City Babes	2	10

CAPITAL CITY HOOPSTERS READY FOR NEW SEASON

Sacramento is a sports town. From our unnatural obsession with the Kings to our fanaticism over the Monarchs and the River Cats, we Sacramentans, gay or straight, just can't get enough. So it seems only fitting that we are leaders in GLBT sports, locally as well as nationally. This explains why our own Capital City Hoopsters (CCH) have become such a huge hit with our community.

"Sacramento has one of the few GLBT basketball leagues in North America," explains Marc Jacobson, the man behind CCH. "And the new all women's league is one of only three in existence—Chicago and Toronto being the other two." Earlier this year Irma Alvarez stepped forward to form an all-women's branch of the CCH. In June, her work came to fruition when the league kicked off its inaugural season in Sacramento. The league, with its popularity growing rapidly, will continue through September with games being played at 7, 8 and 9pm, Monday nights at Basketball Town, 11327 Folsom Blvd. in Rancho Cordova.

Meanwhile, it's business as usual for the Hoopsters co-ed league gearing up their November kickoff. They will soon announce not only their schedule, but their new draft picks, chosen by coaches using a silent draft system to ensure evenness between teams on the league.

Whether you're a wannabe hoopster, a fan in the making or just wanna hang and shoot some hoops, the folks at CCH invite anyone interested in a friendly, fast-paced basketball game to stop by open gym night on Mondays at the Rizal Community Center, 7320 Florin Mall Dr., from 7:30 - 9:30pm and join the fun.

For more information about participating in the gay and lesbian basketball leagues, or the open gym nights, check out the CCH website at sacramentohoops.com.

DART LEAGUE STARTING

When the Bolt re-opens their doors in August, they will be starting up a new dart league. They will be offering free darts on Sunday 5-9 p.m., Thursday 5-12, come out and practice. There will be a dart clinic with Grand Master J.J. as the instructor. Plus J.J. and Carole Jo will have discounted dart supplies for Bolt customers. Contact Tom at the Bolt for more information, 649-8420.

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Lambda Players 16th Season



Psycho Beach Party

By Charles Busch

A campy, riotous spoof of the '60s Beach Party/Gidget surfing movies mixed with a slasher movie plot, this play is to die for!

Sept. 10 - Oct. 16, 2004

Ticket Policies: General \$15, \$13 Senior (60+), Student with ID SARTA, Groups of 10+ • Cham. Readers Theatre: \$5
No refunds • Exchanges 24 hours in advance only
call 484-4742 or visit lambdaplayers.com

Nov. 5, 2004

Kate Clinton appears as part of our 'One Night Stand' comedy series. A political lesbian comedienne. Kate is one of the most recognizable forces in GLBT comedy. This event is a special fundraiser and is not included in the main season. Tickets are \$20, or \$25 @ the door. General tickets go onsale Sept. 5. Advance tickets are available June 5 to season ticket subscribers only.

Kate Clinton



Fruit Cocktail

By Eric Lane Barnes

Nov. 12 - Dec. 18, 2004

A funny, tuneful take on gay life in the form of a cabaret feel presentation that will leave you feeling warm during the holiday months. This show is not included in the main season, but may be purchased at a discounted price for season subscribers.

Just Us Girls

By T. Swanner

Feb. 4 - March 5, 2005

A GLBT library is the setting for a lesbian discussion group that is disrupted after the woman in charge is confronted by a surprise visitor from her past. A lighthearted comedy and a Lambda Players' World Premiere

Champagne Readers Theatre

March 10, 11 & 12, 2005

The reader's theatre debut of three new comedies, two by Sacramento playwrights. Season Subscribers attend one show free.

Just Us Boys by Frank Stancati

I Do/I Don't by Tom Swanner

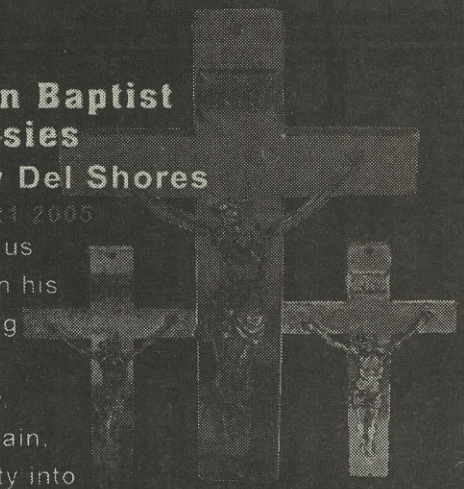
Operation: Gay Agenda by Matt Burlingame

Southern Baptist Sissies

By Del Shores

Apr. 29 - May 21, 2005

The playwright that gave us 'Sordid Lives' is back with his latest piece. An unyielding look into life growing up Southern Baptist and gay. Shore combines music, pain, laughter and raw humanity into yet another masterpiece for the stage.



The Rocky Horror Show

By Richard O'Brien

Jun. 3 - 25, 2005

The grandmaster of all musicals takes the Lambda Players' stage. See the vision that started it all, the stage version of one of America's most loved underground films. An explosive, unrelenting tour de force of music, mayhem and raw sexuality. **includes a special 10pm performance.*

THEATRE = LIFE Jul. 22 & 23, 2005

Lambda Players presents a special weekend of theatre dedicated to the voices of people who are living with, or are affected by AIDS/HIV. The event will feature performances from a range of Sacramento theatre companies coming together for this event. Proceeds will be donated to Breaking Barriers. Visit lambdaplayers.com for further information or to purchase advance tickets.

Visit www.lambdaplayers.com for season ticket order form or call 916.484.4742 to have one mailed to you.

Season Tickets onsale now!

Politics and Religion

By Daniel Roth

Bush Should Learn Some Things Just Don't Mix

President George W. Bush has always had a difficult time learning that some things just don't mix. Take alcohol and machinery. In 1976 Maine police arrested him for driving under the influence of alcohol. Bush, who was 30 at the time, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor DUI charge and paid a \$150 fine, but he didn't learn. Ten years

later our commander and chief took a friend out for a flight in a Cessna airplane, only he had never flown one before. They nearly crashed on take-off. Narrowly avoiding stalling a few times, they crash-landed and the friend breathed a sigh of relief—only for Bush to rev up the engine and take off again.

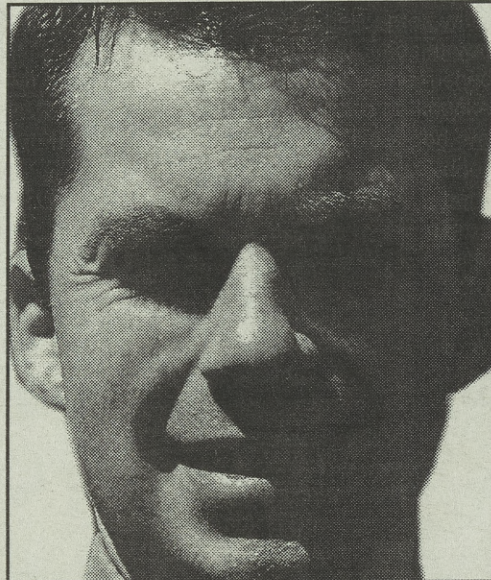
Even though President Bush has declared he no longer drinks, and federal law stipulates Presidents cannot drive or fly themselves, he still insists on mixing things that should never go together. Instead of drinking and driving, he has turned his attention to politics and religion.

According to The National Catholic Reporter, during his recent visit to the Vatican, Bush "implored" Pope John Paul II to press the American Catholic priests to be "more aggressive" politically on family matters, including gay marriages, in the weeks leading to the elections in November. Instead of using his limited time with the Pontiff to work toward helping Americans, Bush called on John Paul II to force American priests to push for an amendment to write discrimination into the United States Constitution and limit marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Later, in a private meeting with other Vatican officials, Bush was quoted as saying: "Not all the American Bishops are with me" on the cultural issues. The implication is obvious. The Leader of the Free World is hoping the Vatican would pressure Catholic Priests towards more explicit political activism.

Bush's actions with the Pope completely contradict the very notion of a separation of church and state that our nation was founded on. Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote to a friend in 1800, "The clergy, by getting themselves established by law and ingrafted into the machine of government, have been a very formidable engine against the civil and religious rights of man."

Jefferson's fears have been embodied in the 43rd President of the United States. And even though our founders worked to separate church and state in order to protect both religious freedom and civil rights, President Bush and his Republican cronies in Congress are work-



Daniel Roth is the President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

ing to break down that wall, and they are using the continued denial of civil rights for gay and lesbian Americans as their rallying cry.

The Washington Post recently reported that House Republican leaders have tacked on to a major jobs bill a provision that would give religious leaders more freedom to engage in partisan politics without endangering the tax-exempt status of their churches.

A spokeswoman for the House Ways and Means Committee, Christin Tinsworth, said the provision was inserted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 at the request of House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) because "this is an election year and there are not many bills that will become law this year."

The provision's conservative Christian backers, including the Southern Baptist Convention, say the tax code, which was changed in 1954 to prohibit churches from engaging in partisan activity, "has deprived religious groups of their historical place in American politics."

Under current tax rules, clergy members are allowed to speak out on political issues and to lead nonpartisan voter registration drives. But the IRS can revoke a congregation's 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status if it endorses candidates or engages in partisan politics. However, the "Safe Harbor for Churches Act" would allow clergy members to engage in political activity, including endorsing candidates. Also, under a section on "unintentional violations," a church will not be considered to have intervened in a campaign unless it does so on more than three occasions in a calendar year.

So the President's plan is coming together. He will push for Catholics and other religious institutions to take a more active role in conservative politics to allow them to work on his re-election

campaign in exchange for eroding our Constitutional principles by not only permitting, but also encouraging, religious institutions to take an active role in Government.

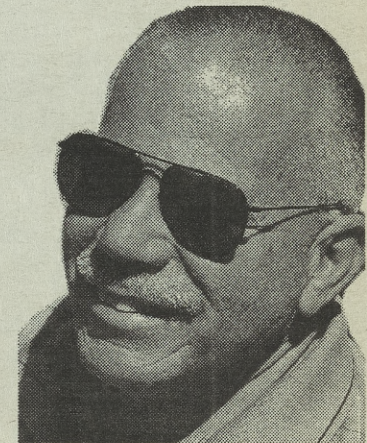
Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation, should be alarmed. Gay and lesbian Americans should be disgusted. Our President is using his international role not to advocate for improving opportunities for Americans, but to advance his own moral agenda of creating a second-class citizenship for hard-working, tax-paying gay and lesbian Americans. All the while the lap dog Republicans in Congress have rolled over to the religious right's wishes so that the conservative congregations can help Republican candidates continue their grasp on power, and equal rights for LGBT Americans are hanging in the balance.

We must act now to protect the principles that our nation was founded on. Just complaining about what President Bush and the Republicans are doing will not result in elected leaders who are committed to civil liberties and equal rights—we need to work. Between now and November, we all need to take an active role in this upcoming election—who we are as a nation depends on it. Register people to vote; write a letter to the editor; walk your local neighborhood and tell your neighbors why you are supporting Democratic candidates; participate in a phone bank; write a check to Senator Kerry; do whatever you need to do to advocate for equal rights. If we don't, and George Bush and his conservative colleagues in Congress win, then the wall between church and state will erode away. They will mix just like the booze that George Bush drank on the night he got his DUI. Except this time, all of us will wake up with a hang over.

EMAIL DAN ROTH: DROTH@Q-RAGG.COM

It's all about Love, Stupid!

To borrow from 1992's famous political quote "It's all about the economy, Stupid," it seems to me that the current battle over same-sex marriage and the proposed constitutional amendment ban of such unions are over the issue of love. On the side of truth, justice, equality, fairness, intelligence and Jesus, we have those folks who understand that the love that same-sex couples feel for each other is the same love that heterosexual cou-



ples feel. Period. It's not "sick," "disgusting," "unhealthy" or "weird"; it's called love.

If you ask any heterosexual couple to explain or list what elements they feel that define the love they have for their wife or husband—it becomes a very long list full of words like support, defend, protect, provide, share, believe in, somewhere near the top. Well, guess what, it's the exact same list that same-sex couples use when describing the love they have for their partners. Exactly the same. Whenever I'm faced with a homo-hater (which by the way happens to be every single Republican member—man or woman—of the Legislature), whenever I hear them say that our relationships have no value or meaning, I look them in the face and say, "I dare you to tell

me that the love I felt for my partner, Ken, was any different than the love you feel towards your wife or husband. I dare you."

They can't say a word. You know why, because behind their political and useful bigotry they know that love is love. And because that is the truth, then gay and lesbian couples deserve the right to marry—they deserve the right to the 1400 federal and state benefits that our society gives to heterosexual couples to support those loving relationships. Because it's love, Stupid!

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PRESIDENT

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The Other F-Word

WHY THE WORD "FAG" SHOULD ELICIT THE SAME REACTION AS OTHER RACIAL EPITHETS

By M.A. Ross

Q-VOICE

My mother once told me that curse words are like strong spices and should be used sparingly when cooking up a sentence, if your words are too spicy then people will be turned off by how strong it is. Unless you're really trying to get someone's attention or rile them, curse words shouldn't be used in everyday vocabulary. The brilliant comedian George Carlin has a widely known comedy bit about the seven dirty words that you can't say over the air. With all do respect to Mr. Carlin, I'd like to add another word to that list that I'd never like to hear on the air or anywhere else for that matter. That word is "fag" which I like to refer to as "the other F-word."

We've all heard the word fag at one time or another, either on the playground when you were in grade school or maybe from a family member. You may possibly have heard it in a movie or seen it spray painted on a wall somewhere. You may well have even used it yourself. Maybe you weren't sure what it meant, but you saw the reactions it got from people and you could tell right away that it was something that made people angry, or scared.

The word fag isn't the only curse word based on sexuality but there is a reason this particular word puts my nuts in a knot.

This F-word is used almost as commonly as the original F-word is. It's mainly used in a derisive way to describe someone homosexual, but also, as someone thought of as annoying, stupid, weak or worthless. I've heard it used by people of every sex, race, and speaking age in just about every setting imaginable without a second thought to its meaning; it rolls off people tongues without compunction as to who might be offended or hurt by this word.

If you stop to think about it, most English language curse words are based on "subversive sexuality." One of the biggest implies that one has had an incestuous union with one's mother. Still another suggests that one's father has had sexual relations with a female dog. Most of the others are based on sexual practices that some heterosexuals find "deviant" or one's mental capacities. Some curse words are

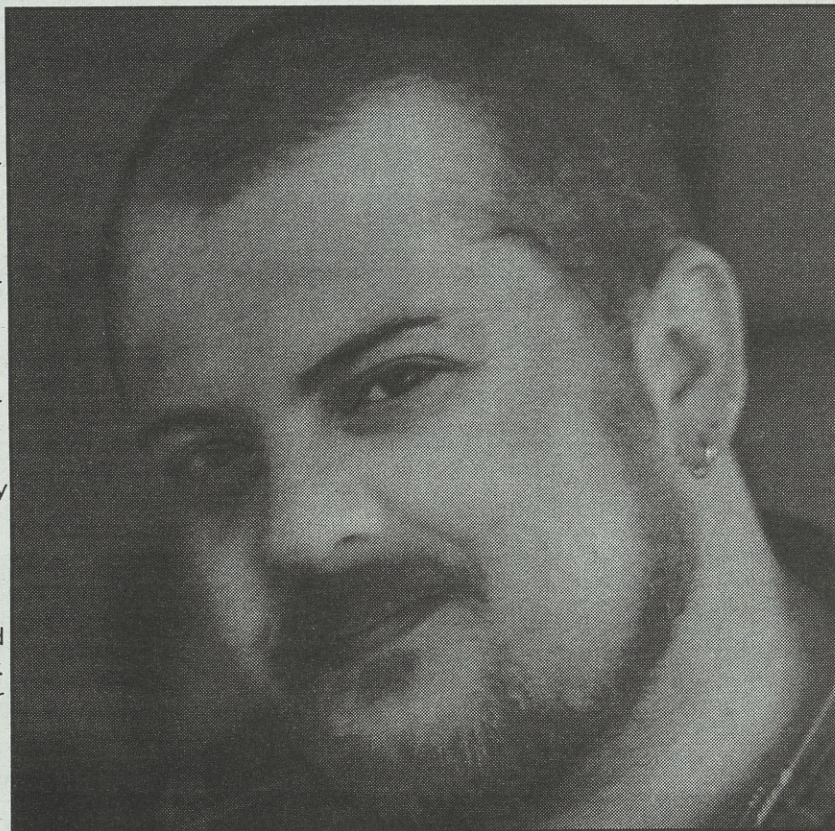


Photo by Curtis Hagen

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based on disparaging someone's ethnicity, as if skin color or the land you were born on can determine anything.

The curse words based on the practices that heterosexuals find "out of the ordinary." I don't mind being called, because I actually do and enjoy most of those so-called "non-standard behaviors." As for the curse words based on the sexual habits of my parents, those words don't bother me either, because one: I have no interest or control over my parent's sex lives and two: my mother never married my father. So, technically, I am the dictionary definition of a bastard.

I looked up the word fag in the dictionary and found the following description: 1: To work hard: drudge 2: to act as a fag: to tire by strenuous activity: exhaust: toil: 2A: an English schoolboy who acts as a servant to another 3: a cigarette. See fagot or faggot. So, I looked up the word "faggot" and found A: a bundle of sticks B: a bundle of pieces of wrought iron to be shaped by rolling of hammering at high temperature.

Now I ask you, how does a word go from meaning hard work, a subservient English schoolboy, a cigarette, or a bundle of sticks, to meaning someone who exhibits sexual desire toward a member of one's own

sex? One explanation I read was that back in the dark ages in jolly ol' England the Catholic Church would burn so many homosexuals at the stake for their mortal sins that it got to be as common as burning the bundles of sticks used to start the fires; no one gave it a second thought. Can't you just hear it now "Mum wot's 'at dreadful smell an' awful noise?" "Oh never you mind dear, 'tis just some fag-gots on the fire." Those oh so compassionate Christians! I guess the abominable persecutions of Christians by the ancient Romans didn't teach them much... or maybe it taught them too much?

But, I can empathize with people on why they would be upset by these words, particularly those born from racial hatred, and I hope they can come to comprehend why the word fag burns me up. Nothing makes my skin crawl more than someone using that word in an everyday conversation. Some people may ask why I am making a big deal over such a little word as fag, especially for someone such as myself who swears like a priest caught with his hand under an altar boys vestment. Because to me, the word fag has ceased to be a general curse word and is now more like a racial epithet. It cuts to the core of my being. It may be a small cut, but they, too, can get infected and can do lasting damage over time.

Just like people of African decent who do not tolerate the "N-word" as an epithet, I will no longer tolerate the word "fag." If we all did that, maybe we could help someone else's life not be miserable because of "the other F-word."

Q-EVENTS

BE SEEN!

To get your event listed, send your press release to: Q-Ragg, P.O. Box 162699, Sac, CA 95816 or send us a fax at 916.381.8121. You can also send us your info in an email at events@q-ragg.com. Remember to include the who, what, where, when & why of your event!

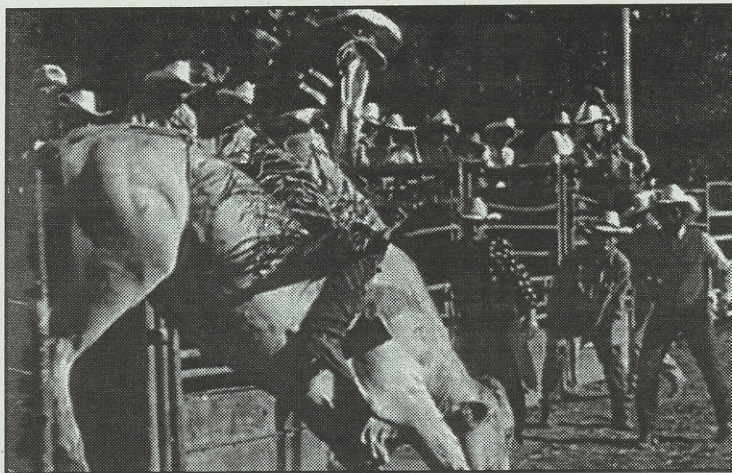


Photo from website

2301 St. Marks Way. www.sacramento-flag.org

8 THURSDAY

Being Gay Today, 10pm, Channel 17

9 FRIDAY

The Valley Knights invite all local and not so local bikers to join the club on their next motorcycle campout at the Ranch Run, July 9-11. Come and join the club for a leisurely motorcycle camping weekend at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills. The run features 4 meals prepared by biker chef Anthony Berno, beverages, a day ride through scenic foothills and quaint towns for a no host lunch, bike events and a run T-shirt silkscreened on site. At night, the club will have a big screen TV set up for viewing biker movies such as Easyrider, Biker Boyz, and assorted biker shorts under the stars all for the rock bottom price of only \$30. Check out the Valley Knights website at ValleyKnights.org and click on the Ranch Run link to print out an application.

14 WEDNESDAY

Lazy Bear Weekend, July 14-19, Guerneville, CA.

15 THURSDAY

Being Gay Today, 10pm, Channel 17

16 FRIDAY

Club 21 Free Salsa Lesson at 7pm

17 SATURDAY

The Sacramento Men's Chorus will be representing Sacramento at the seventh choral festival of the GL Assoc, of Choruses, in Montreal on July 17th through July 24th

20 TUESDAY

SVL General Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at the Lambda Community Center.
Bears Night Out, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at Fresh Choice on Howe and Fair Oaks Blvd.
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at Konicom IT solutions at 1819 J Street.
Sacramento PFLAG 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. at St Marks United Methodist Church

22 THURSDAY

Being Gay Today, 10pm, Channel 17

23 FRIDAY

Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo, July 23-25, 2004 at the various locations, check their website or more information. www.sierrastampede.org

24 SATURDAY

Rally For A Cure V Breast Cancer Golf Tournament at Champions

29 THURSDAY

SVL Friends Night Out, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2004, location To Be Announced
Being Gay Today, 10pm, Channel 17

30 FRIDAY

Monarchs Game Party at Club 21

AUGUST

12 THURSDAY

Harrison Street Fair: The World's first Bear Street fair is coming to San Francisco beginning August 12, 2004, and ending August 15th. It will be the premier street fair for the Bear Community. The inaugural weekend will be full of "parties, special events and a unique urban campground", right in front of the world famous Lone Star Saloon. There are lots of events such as a Greek Gods toga party, a trip to the San Francisco water front, warehouse-sized bear dances and the biggest one day bear street party ever. For more information on the street fair, write to: Harrison Street Fair, 584 Castro Street, #414, San Francisco, CA 94114 or contact them via their website at: www.harrison.org

15 SUNDAY

The Sacramento Valley Aids Walk has teamed up with the Sacramento River Cats for a special day of HIV/AIDS awareness at Raley Field, call "Step Up To The Plate Against AIDS." On Sunday, August 15th, the River Cats will contribute \$3.00 from every ticket purchased through this offer to HIV/AIDS services. The game will

feature a special opening ceremony and AIDS awareness/education throughout the evening. Tickets prices are as follows: Gold Rush \$15.00, Delta Box \$11.00 and Hot Corner \$9.00. For more information go to: www.capcityaidsfund.org or call (916) 440-0889 ext. 301.

LAMBDA COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

Sunday

WOMEN'S COMING OUT GROUP 6PM-7:30PM

Open to women of all ages, at any stage of coming out. WomenComingOut@lambdasac.org

Monday

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6PM

Open to men of all ages investigating "coming out" issues. mencomingout@lambdasac.org

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6:30PM

Explore gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. mensgroup@lambdasac.org

OVER THE RAINBOW GROUP OF NA, 8PM

A 12-step program for men and women trying to overcome a narcotics addiction. www.na.org

LAMBDA LAW REFERRAL SERVICE, 5:30PM

Wednesday

WOMYN ON WEDNESDAY, 7PM

For socialization and to discuss issues that Lesbian and bisexual women may find very important. womensgroup@lambdasac.org

FIRST STAGES, 1ST & 3RD WEDS., 8-9PM

Support/discussion group for youth 18-29 who are recently diagnosed with HIV. firststages@lambdasac.org

Friday

BREAKING BARRIERS/LAMBDA YOUTH GROUP, 8PM

Fun, educational, and thought provoking discussions that tackle topics facing queer youth today youthgroup@lambdasac.org

Sierra Stampede rides again

The 6th annual Sierra Stampede is coming to Sacramento on July 23-25, 2004. The

Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association, or CCGRA is putting on the show in Rio Linda again. The host hotel will be the Vagabond Inn on Arden, and some of the events will be held there.

Starting on Thursday night the kickoff party will be at the Mercantile as they have done each year prior. It will begin at 5:00 p.m. on July 22nd. The next day the party moves to the Vagabond Inn for a pool party, and contestant registration at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Rodeo Dance in the Governor's Room at the Vagabond Friday night. Saturday begins the Rodeo in Rio Linda at the Rodeo Grounds at 9:00 a.m., with the Grand Entry at 1:00. Entertainment for that day will be the DC Cowboys. To close out the day of fun, we go back to the Vagabond Inn for another dance in the Governor's Room, with a special auction going on to help raise money for the Rodeo and their charities. The weekend ends with the second day of Rodeo out at the Rodeo grounds on Sunday, again beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be plenty of vendors to do some shopping, as well as food and drink vendors both days. Come on out and support the CCGRA, and you can go to their website for more information at: www.sierrastampede.org

Tickets will be sold at FACES nightclub, Etc., and the Open Book. See you there!

CALIF. PRIDE DATES

San Diego Pride • July 30-Aug, 1 • sdpride.org • 619-297-7683

Reno Pride • August 20-22
renogaypride.com • (775) 825-2117

Sacramento Rainbow Festival • Sept. 5 • rainbowfestival.com
916-448-0706 x11

Chico Pride • September 18
stonewallchico.org/freedom.html
(530) 893-3336

Palm Springs Pride • November 5-7 • pspride.org • (760) 416-8711

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BUSINESS RESOURCES

- Rainbow Chamber Commerce 532-3347
www.rainbowchamber.com
- Valley Rainbow Pages 444-2322
www.valleyrainbowpages.com

MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sac. Valley Leathermen, 486-5500
www.svlclub.org
Sac. Valley Bears
www.sacvalleybears.org

COMPUTER CONSULTING

- Ala_Carte PC Consulting, 284-7991
ala_carte@earthlink.net
- Meyer Enterprises, 524-5140

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www.doanevent.com

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Allaway Cleaning, 454-3220

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MORTGAGE COMPANIES

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home.countrywide.com/jackmaple

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John Kerry For President
www.sacramentoforkerry.com
Stonewall Democrats, 359-1040
www.sacstonewall.org

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sirspeedysacto@sbcglobal.net

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We'll Do Everything We Can to Make Your Home Loan Process Easier.



And That Includes \$500. Off Closing Costs and a Free Appraisal.

At Countrywide, we are focused on making the home loan process easier and more affordable.

And that's why we offer services like:

- Fast up-front approvals
- Builder Rate Cap program that provides interest rate protection while your home is under construction.
- No Loan Origination Fee
- Reduced fee on final closing costs by using the coupon below

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how many ways we've found to make home loans easier.



Countrywide®

HOME LOANS

CALL 916-717-8890

website: <http://home.countrywide.com/jackmaple>

email: Jack_Maple@Countrywide.com

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**Save \$500. on Closing Costs
and a Free Appraisal**
Compliments of Countrywide Home Loans and Jack Maple

Present this coupon to our Countrywide branch office in Roseville, CA and save on closing costs.

Coupon must accompany your loan application and a copy of your signed sales agreement.

\$1500. will be reflected as a closing cost credit. (Loan must close to receive this discount).

Take advantage of this offer today.

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Countrywide®

HOME LOANS



JACK MAPLE

**NEW HOME LOANS!
REFINANCE TODAY!**

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